Advisory Board at CSIR Headquarters level and Research Council at laboratory level. Ever since this mechanism has come into being, the external cash flow by way of interaction with industry etc. has increased and stood at Rs. 94.12 crores at the end of the year 1993-94.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expenditure on Science

780. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming fall in the expenditure on Science from 1 per cent of GNP to 0.83 per cent, as reported in 'The Hindu' dated the 20th January, 1995;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 40 per cent of the world's software engineers are Indians and our country's earnings out of the software market are only 0.1 per cent; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Research and Development expenditure has increased in absolute terms from Rs 3347.26 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 5141.64 crores in 1992-93; while R and D expenditure was 0.96 per cent of GNP in 1988-89 it is 0 83 per cent of GNP in 1992-93.

(b) and (c) The world market for software is estimated to be US $ 300 billion Indian export of computer software during 1993-94 were valued at Rs. 1020 crores.

Scientific Research

781. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Indian Express dated the 19th February, 1995 under the caption "Corruption harming scientific research", if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the scientific research in India is a plain emulation of Western science; and

(c) what is the number of patents obtained by the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item published in the Indian Farmers dated 19.2.1995.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) About 1180 Indian patents have been granted.

Regional Centre for Space Science and technology education

782. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N GIRI PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's offer to host

the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific has been accepted by the United Nations, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 27th February, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when and where the centre would be set up in India and the time likely to be taken for its growing as a network institution with major modes to cover specific programme elements in established institutions related to space technology in this region; and

(d) whether Government expect larger U.N. financial assistance and also likely to make more Central budgetary provisions in the financial year 1995-96 for enhancing further its own indigenous capabilities in space technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Following a resolution of the UN General Assembly endorsing a recommendation of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) that the UN should lead an international effort to established regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national/regional educational institutions in the developing countries, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand offered to host this centre for the Asia Pacific Region. A UN evaluation Mission examined these offers and finally came to the conclusion that the offers and commitment made by India in its proposal favour an early establishment and operation of the centre in this region. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs subsequently issued a statement identifying India as the location for this centre.

(c) The proposal from India is based on initiating the antivities of the centre with the use of facilities available at the India Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehra Dun; Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad, and Physical Research Laboratory Ahmedabad, and enhancing these facilities subsequently. A draft agreement relating to the administration of the centre is under consideration of the countries of this region, and its functioning can commence on signature of this agreement and the setting up of the Governing Board. It is planned for this centre to grow with major nodes in other countries of this region on a progressive basis.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Chinese opposition in the setting up of UN space centre in India

783. SHRI G Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the decision taken at the 32nd session of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) held in Vienna to develop a Space Science and Technology Education Centre in developing countries, initial work on